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MS#158496.01 (4964)
PATENTREMARKS

Applicants have thoroughly considered the Office action dated 9/8/05 and have amended the application to more clearly set forth the invention. Claims 1, 18, 23, 24, and 35-39 have been amended by this Amendment A. Claim 4 has been canceled. Claims 1-3 and 5-45 are presented in the application for further examination. Reconsideration of the application as amended and in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particular point and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner objected to the limitation "permitting the respective user to contest an evicted account" as being broad, indefinite, and subject to misinterpretation. Applicants respectfully disagree. To further prosecution, however, applicants have amended claim 18 to more distinctly claim the present invention.

On page 81 of Applicant's specification, the last paragraph describes a scenario where a user, Joe, tries to change his email address to Joe@B.com and someone else has already signed up for an account using Joe@B.com. The passage continues "When Joe gets an error message saying that the sign-in name is already taken, he clicks on the link that displays "Click here if this e-mail address really belongs to you." This link guides Joe through a process where he is able to change his sign-in name while simultaneously contesting the Joe@B.com account." The process allows Joe to challenge (or contest) the use of Joe@B.com namespace by another and prove that he is the rightful owner.

Therefore, to more distinctly claim the present invention, claim 18 has been amended to recite that the authentication server permits a user of an evicted account to contest the eviction. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 18 is in condition for allowance and the Examiner's rejection should be withdrawn.

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PATENTClaim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 23, 35, and 36-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101(a) as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants respectfully disagree. To further prosecution, however, claims 23 and 35-38 have been amended to recite a "tangible" computer-readable medium.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 23 and 35-38 are in condition for allowance and the Examiner's rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 24, 35-36 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Carter et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,742,114). Applicants respectfully disagree. Carter et al. fails to teach or suggest that a received request specifies a task or action for managing an authentication database.

Carter et al. discloses that a principal requests authorization from the Distributed Deputization Point (DDP). (Carter et al., column 8, lines 19-21) The DDP then sends an authentication response to the principal. (Carter et al., column 8, lines 45-46) Once authenticated, "the principal sends the DDP a deputy credential request". (Carter et al., column 9, lines 4-5). In response to this request, "the DDP creates a deputy credential". (Carter et al., column 9, lines 4-5) The creation of this credential, illustrated in Figure 6, is not a database task, but creation of signals. (Carter et al., column 10, lines 41-42) Carter et al. goes on to teach that the signals are implemented in data structures. (Carter et al., column 11, lines 62-64) In other words, the request disclosed in Carter et al. creates a data structure.

In contrast, **the present invention performs a task or action that manages an authentication database, as claimed in amended claim 1.** This limitation is completely absent from the Carter et al. invention. As amended, claim 1 in the present invention recites "said authentication server having a database associated therewith storing authentication information for authenticating the users of the namespace service, ... said request specifying **at least one action for managing the database** to be performed to the namespace". Carter et al. fails to teach or suggest such a limitation. As such, Applicants submit that amended claim 1 is allowable

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for at least these reasons. The claims depending from claim 1 are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Similar to claim 1, claims 24, 36 and 39, as amended, respectively recite "at least one routine be performed to implement a **desired administrative task for managing the database**", "said call providing a request that at least one routine be performed to implement a **desired administrative task for managing the database**", and "said request specifying at least one **action for managing the database** to be performed to the namespace service." Thus, Applicants submit that claims 24, 36, and 39 and the claims depending therefrom are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1 is allowable.

As such, the rejection of claims 1-4, 24, 35-36 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn. Should the Examiner maintain these rejections, Applicants request that the Examiner identify the particular subject matter in Carter et al. upon which teaches the above-identified limitations.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-21, 23-25, 27-41, and 43-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chan (U.S. Pub. 2002/0165960) in view of Carter et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,742,114). Applicants respectfully disagree that Carter et al. teaches that the received request specifies a task or action for managing an authentication database.

As explained above, claims 1, 24, 36, and 39 recite that the request specifies an action or task that manages the authentication database. On the other hand, as explained above, the request disclosed in Carter et al. creates a data structure and does not perform a task or action that manages an authentication database. Additionally, Chan teaches a method that allows an administrator to determine the access of a user or process to a resource under certain conditions. (Chan, paragraph [0023]) Thus, neither Chan nor Carter et al. teach or suggest a task or action for managing an authentication database. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 1, 24, 36 and 39 and the claims depending thereon are patentable.

Claims 22, 26, and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chan (U.S. Pub. 2002/0165960) in view of Carter et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,742,114) further in view of

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James et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,904,600). In this instance, James et al. cannot be the basis for a § 103(a) rejection and the rejection should be removed.

James et al. does not qualify as prior art under either of §§102(a) or 102(b) because the James et al. publication date of June 7, 2005 is after the effective filing date of the instant application filing date of January 11, 2002. Accordingly, James et al. can only be relied on as prior art for this §103(a) rejection if it qualifies as prior art under §102(e). Applicants wish to invoke the §103(c) exception to establish that the reference may not be used as §103 prior art against the present application.¹

Applicants would like to establish common ownership at this time: Application No. 10/044,565 to Kukreja et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,904,600 to James et al. were, at the time the invention of Application No. 10/044,565 was made, owned by Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, WA (US). Accordingly, claims 22, 26, and 42 are patentable, and applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

It is felt that a full and complete response has been made to the Office action and, as such, places the application in condition for allowance. Such allowance is hereby respectfully requested. Although the prior art made of record and not relied upon may be considered pertinent to the disclosure, none of these references anticipates or makes obvious the recited invention. The fact that Applicants may not have specifically traversed any particular assertion by the Office should not be construed as indicating Applicants' agreement therewith.

The Applicants wish to expedite prosecution of this application. If the Examiner deems the claims as amended to not be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned to discuss making an Examiner's amendment to place the claims in condition for allowance.

¹ Effective November 29, 1999, subject matter which was prior art under former 35 U.S.C. 103 via 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is now disqualified as prior art against the claimed invention if that subject matter and the claimed invention "were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person." MPEP 706.02(1)(1), first paragraph. In order to be disqualified as prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(c), the subject matter which would otherwise be prior art to the claimed invention and the claimed invention must be commonly owned at the time the claimed invention was made. MPEP 706.02(1)(2), first paragraph.

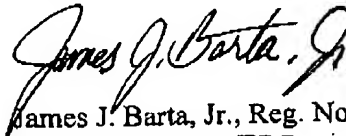
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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or overpayment of any required fee during the entire pendency of this application to Deposit Account No. 19-1345.

Respectfully submitted,



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